

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06744 121543Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2034

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DC MINED

1. AT LUNCH TODAY WHICH AMBASSADOR GAVE FOR SENATOR SPADOLINI (PRI), NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION MARIO PEDINI (DC) AND CAO, SEVERAL POINTS EMERGED. BOTH AGREED MORO CASE WAS A WATERSHED, THAT THE ITALIAN STATE WAS AT THE TEST POINT AND THAT THE STAKES IN THE GAME WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE FEAR OF THE RED BRIGADES AT THIS TIME MAKE THE PCI HIGHLY COOPERATIVE, THOUGH THEY COULD NOT AGREE HOW LONG THIS WOULD LAST.

2. PEDINI RAISED QUESTION ABOUT MEANING OF GIORGIO NAPOLITANO'S VISIT TO U.S. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE VISA POLICY AND ITS OPEN ASPECTS AND REMINDED HIM WE DID NOT CONTROL OUR UNIVERSITIES' RIGHT TO INVITE. PEDINI COUNTERED: HIS OBJECTION WAS NOT TO PCI VISITS TO THE U.S.; ON THE CONTRARY, HE FAVORED AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. HIS OBJECTION WAS TO NAPOLITANO, WHO REPRESENT THE WRONG SIDE OF THE PRESENT PCI. BERLINGUER NEEDS OUR HELP, HE SAID, AND WE MUST HELP HIM IF HE IS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE BRINGING HIS PARTY INTO A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST FRAMEWORK. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT HELP HE HAD IN MIND. WITH SPADOLINI NODDING ASSENT, HE SAID THE MISSION SHOULD OPEN ITS EFFORTS TO GET TO KNOW THE PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS
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PAGE 02 ROME 06744 121543Z

IN THE PCI, AT ALL LEVELS EXCEPT THE AMBASSADOR'S. POINTING TO THE CAO, HE SAID THAT MISSION OFFICERS WERE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. HE SAID WE MUST LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ELEMENTS WITH WHICH WE CAN WORK AND THOSE WITH WHOM WE CANNOT. HE EMPHASIZED THIS POINT AS HE LEFT, REITERATING ALSO THE POINT THAT THIS NOT TAKE PLACE AT THE AMBASSADOR'S LEVEL. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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